**WHAT SOCIAL ISSUES ARE AFFECTING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RACE? AS WELL AS WHAT POLICIES WILL HELP?**

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**SOCIAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN RACE & POLICIES OF ASSISTANCE.**

The history of the African American Race is dated back as early as the 15th Century, specifically in the year 1526. This was the period of the Atlantic slave trade whereby, during the discovery of the African continent, almost 10.7 million men, women and children were captured and put into ships and sailed to the Americas. These people were subjected to hard and forced labor until on January 31st 1865, the Thirteen Amendment (Amendment XIII) to the United States Constitution was passed which led to the abolishment of slave trade and the involuntary servitude of African Americans. After a long period of slave oppression and inhumane treatment from those who considered the Africans as inferior, the slaves were given a chance to settle in American soil, which they considered to be greener pastures and a better life. But after decades of settlement of the African Americans, the oppression still continues.

The main reason for the emerging social issues in the African American society is Scientific Racism. It is defined as the belief that there is biological evidence that exists to justify for racism. In other words, scientist argue that human intelligence is greatly influenced by inherited or environmental factors that justifies many possible outcomes such as; work performance, crime involvement, etc. It is also argued that people with high intelligence separate from people with average/no intelligence and its source is social division. The African American race are deemed as less intelligent simply because they originate from a less intelligent environment and should not be allowed to mingle with the American race, which is deemed to be more intelligent thus causing issues in the society at large. Even today, many African Americans suffer from racism issues which affect them socially. You would think that in a modern society, the evolvement to this barbaric thinking would have faded off from generation to generation, but the tension between the two parties is overwhelming. Here are some of the social issues affecting the African American communities.

Poverty has become a social issue affecting the African American society for many years. It is a factor that has been really talked about in many forums to be able to address the methods of improving African American communities. According to a case study conducted in 2021, with only 13.8% of the United States population being African American, 17.4% of them live below the poverty threshold.

Looking at the numbers above the African Communities are very far away from beating this form of social oppression. The main reason for poverty in African American Communities is Generational inequality. It is based on the principals that having wealthy parents equals economic stability later in life. White Americans established generational wealth at a very early stage compared to the African American society who also generate low income so inheritance is out of question. The pressure that is exerted to the average African American individual to be a perfect model in the society is immense, despite facing all manner of discrimination. This is displayed in so many different forms which include; low pay due to the color of your skin, minor forms of segregation, assumption of being “not intelligent”, etc. This form of social issue causes high rates of being laid off in the African American Society, therefore increasing the rate of poverty in Black American Society.

Since poverty in African American households has been a major discussion in one of the issues affecting Black Americans, solutions have been provided to this problem. Support to Black-Owned Businesses is a very efficient way. This is by; providing employment to community members and financial institutions investing in their business ideas. By offering financial literacy courses and also investing in education for black students e.g., Scholarships and student loans, the community can be able to grow, as far as wealth creation is concerned.

Employment is a major income generating field in the Unites States. In 2022, around 164.29 million people create the civilian labor force, making it one of the largest in the world. But out of these, the black community make up a little less of this number. The labor market experience for African Americans has historically been worse than that for the White Americans, and this continues even today. It is estimated that Black America unemployment is twice the number of White America unemployment, coming at 14.1%. There is a huge racial employment gap established due to many factors which include; Discrimination in the labor market, Lack of a college education and large population of incarcerated African Americans.

Socially, African Americans find it hard to compete economically with White Americans since most of them are employed, therefore creating a high economic gap between the two. Boosting Public Sector Employment could greatly help with this problem. This is employment that is provided by either the local government or the state government. Provision of government jobs to the marginalized communities could curb unemployment in African American society. It also comes with incentives and allowances such as medical insurance and housing which could be a great help. Another way is by Racial Discrimination Prohibitions. Most layoffs in the African American society come along because of discrimination from the Senior staff and also the subordinates. By enforcing rules and regulations against petty racism, Black Americans can comfortably work in a suitable environment for better productivity. Raising the number of more college degrees in the African American Society is a major way of increasing employment opportunities. Most high school graduates do not get a chance to attend college because of low acceptance to the same colleges or even because of financial constrains in the family. By providing scholarships or financial aid to the students could guarantee them a chance at a descent employment since they have the qualifications of a college degree.

Ethnic stereotype/ racial stereotype is one of the major issues that affect the African American race in dealing with the society. It is described as a system of beliefs about a specific type of ethnic group based on their cultural norm. Since the oppression of the African Americans as slaves in the 18th century, the general American population have had different stereotypes of African Americans. One of them being that they have sexualized Black Americans such as the “Mandigo” and the “Jezebel “ stereotypes. Other common forms of the African American stereotypes include; lazy, superstitious, musical, ignorant etc.

One of the most dehumanizing forms of stereotype that affects the Black Community today is hot temper. Since the slave ages, America has believed that the black community is always violent and looking for trouble. This kind of thinking has brought forth many misfortunes to the existence of Black Americans. Effects of this include; Discrimination from the general public and also the government which in turn could lead to unequal treatment in many areas, it brings forth racial profiling which in turn leads to police brutality, causing death and also wrongful incarcerations, Decrease in confidence or self esteem of individuals of the African American race. They in turn believe that they are not human worthy and therefore inhibit their development and Hindrance of social cohesion, causing social tensions between two different races, negatively impacting relationships.

The effect of racial stereotyping has already taken root in the society and it is high time that it is stopped. By educating future generations on different cultures and traditions, it will stop the future spread of this. Also, different cultures have diverse practices and being able to celebrate it freely without restrictions will enable overall acceptance in the society. This has been implemented by the African American culture by introducing holidays such as; Black History Month, Juneteenth etc. Most racial stereotyping leads to violence to the general public. By being able to report cases of indecent stereotyping, one can be able to know that it is not right and would therefore not repeat again.

In conclusion, African Americans continue to face social issues which affect their lives in a negative manner. From poverty, to ethnic /racial stereotyping, to systemic racism, these problems are deep-rooted in the American Society and have already been addressed. Little progress has been made to stop these issues like; education, protests etc. It is important that all should know these issues and strive to make a society whereby discrimination does not exist. By realizing the struggles of the African American Society, we can progress to a future whereby equality is a reality for all.

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